

Cobell Settlement Discussions On Thursday, March 11th

Dennis Gingold and Alex Pearl will be visiting the Santee Sioux, Yankton Sioux, and Winnebago Tribes this week to explain the Cobell Settlement and answer questions. Among other things, they will be talking about the \$3.4 billion dollar settlement, the land consolidation Fund, and the Indian education scholarship fund. The scheduled events are as follows:

Date: Thursday, March 11

Location: Oyate Oyanke Community Center – Santee, NE

Time: 10:00am – 11:30pm

Date: Thursday, March 11

Location: Fort Randall Casino & Hotel – Bingo Hall – Pickstown, SD

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Date: Thursday, March 11

Location: Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska – Council Chambers – Winnebago, NE

Time: 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Background: A Settlement Agreement has been announced between Individual Indian Money (IIM) beneficiaries and the Secretary of the Interior, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior-Indian Affairs, and the Secretary of the Treasury in a long-running class action lawsuit, *Cobell v. Salazar*. The lawsuit claims that the federal government mismanaged individual Indians' trust accounts. Under the terms of the Settlement, the federal government will create a \$1.4 billion Accounting/Trust Administration Fund and a \$2 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund. The Settlement also creates an Indian Education Scholarship fund of up to \$60 million to improve access to higher education for Indians.

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